

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Office of Fire and Aviation
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

October 17, 2001

In Reply Refer To:
9210 (FA-640) P

EMS Transmission 10/18/01
Information Bulletin No. OF&A 2000-004

To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: National Wildland Urban Interface Award

DD: 11/16/2001

The *National Fire Plan* appropriations and the 2001 *Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy* have provided exciting direction and resources for the mitigation of damages and losses to wildland urban interface communities and the wildland ecosystems upon which they depend. Federal, state and local agencies, groups, and individuals have been empowered to work together to reduce wildfire risks and damages by implementing proactive community and ecosystem projects. With the rapid response from the Bureau to meet these challenges, Field Offices have developed new partnerships and effective wildland urban interface (WUI) community programs and projects.

To provide incentives and recognition for successful implementation of these programs and projects, the National Office of Fire and Aviation is sponsoring the "National Wildland Urban Interface Award" that recognizes exceptional efforts in WUI community mitigation. This award focuses on WUI leadership in reducing the risks of wildfire to people (civilians and firefighters), communities and watersheds, and coordinating local fire protection efforts through proactive planning and collaborative projects. The amount of \$10,000 is available to a Field Office for the Unit/Group award and the Individual award is \$5,000.

Enclosed is a description of these awards, the nomination and award process and the evaluation criteria. The process allows for awards to a unit/group and/or an individual. State Offices need

to submit their nominations to the Director, Office of Fire and Aviation, by November 16, 2001, to be considered for this year's National Wildland Urban Interface Award. The awards will be presented at the National Fire and Aviation Conference in December.

Any questions on this award or the nomination process may be directed to Pat Durland, Office of Fire and Aviation, at 208-387-5162.

Signed by:
Larry E. Hamilton
Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:
Pat Lewis
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst, Office Services

1 - Attachment

1 - BLM's National Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Award (3 pp.)

BLM's National Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Award

AWARD NAME: "National Wildland Urban Interface Award"

The risk of wildfires to people (civilians and firefighters), communities and watersheds is reduced by addressing a community's wildfire vulnerability, restoring and maintaining the health, sustainability and resiliency of fire-prone ecosystems, and addressing local fire protection through collaborative efforts at all levels.

The BLM's National Wildland Urban Interface Unit/Group Award recognizes the exceptional accomplishments of an office or group in leadership, planning, implementation, management, and maintenance of community Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) mitigation program(s) that meet the evaluation criteria.

The BLM's National Wildland Urban Interface Individual Award recognizes the exceptional accomplishments of an individual for leadership and effort in the areas of partnerships, public participation and education, collaborative project planning and implementation, and other contributions in advancing community WUI mitigation that meets the evaluation criteria.

Frequency: The Unit/Group Award and/or the Individual Award may be presented annually. The award(s) will be presented at the National Fire and Aviation Conference and will consist of a souvenir and a monetary award.

Nominations: Nominations must be submitted through a State Office (Field Office nominations should be forwarded to the Office of Fire and Aviation from the appropriate State Office). States may submit more than one award nomination. Submit nominations to the Office of Fire and Aviation by November 16, 2001. Each nomination should indicate whether it is for the "Unit/Group" or "Individual" award. Nomination(s) should include a one page narrative describing accomplishments in WUI risk assessment, community education and action, fuels treatment, and an explanation of how these actions contributed to reducing a communities exposure to wildfire. Additional documentation (two pages or less) should address the award's evaluation criteria.

SELECTION: The selection of the unit/group(s) and/or individual(s) will be made by an awards committee consisting of, at least, a representative of the Director, Office of Fire and Aviation, a Field Manager, and a specialist in community protection and assistance. The names of the selected unit/group(s) and/or individual(s) will be forwarded to the BLM Director by the Director, Office of Fire and Aviation, for national recognition.

UNIT/GROUP AWARD-EVALUATION CRITERIA :

Each unit/group nomination will be evaluated against the following criteria. Nominations should address each criterion individually, provide accomplishment measurements, a cost overview of the project and be limited to two pages total. Indicate significant and exceptional actions taken in connection with WUI mitigation (i.e., communities, homes and watersheds made more fire resistant; acres of WUI treated for hazardous fuel reduction; rural fire departments assisted, etc.). Indicate the development and/or use of social and wildland fire science, the use of indigenous knowledge and partnerships, etc.

1. Wildland Urban Interface Community Mitigation

Objective: The WUI project, plan or program reduces the wildfire exposure to WUI community(ies) in compliance with the National Fire and 10 year comprehensive plans.

Criteria: Discuss how WUI hazard mitigation objectives were developed and achieved. Describe how the project(s) addresses specific community values such as fire resistant structures, healthy watersheds, level of local fire protection, etc.

2. Unique Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Accomplishments

Objective: The WUI project, plan or program employed unique or exceptional projects, partnerships or programs.

Criteria: Discuss why and how the project is unique and/or exceptional. Describe the objectives of the project and how innovative means achieved program goals. Describe how solutions were achieved in challenging situations.

3. Coordination and Cooperation

Objective: Comprehensive coordination and cooperation.

Criteria: Describe interdisciplinary processes and partners (i.e., level of coordination with scientists, technical specialists, special interest groups, etc.). Describe interagency efforts, including collaboration with Federal, state, and county agencies. Describe coordination and cooperative efforts with other stakeholders, private individuals and groups.

4. Public Education and Involvement

Objective: Community understanding and participation.

Criteria: Describe how public awareness, education and involvement assisted in planning and implementing the mitigation program. Discuss unique public involvement and solutions. Describe any unique or unusual partnership involvement.

INDIVIDUAL AWARD- EVALUATION CRITERIA :

Each nomination will be evaluated against the following criteria. Nominations should address each criterion separately and be limited to two pages.

1. Leadership

Objective: Substantial individual leadership in community WUI mitigation programs.

Criteria: Describe the leadership efforts of the individual in development and implementation of WUI projects. Describe achievements with individuals and groups that support effective methods of wildfire risk reduction to WUI communities.

2. Individual Effort

Objective: Significant individual accomplishment.

Criteria: Describe unique or significant efforts related to a specific WUI project, program, or plan; or describe significant ongoing individual efforts that created or influenced WUI community mitigation program(s).

3. Partnership Development

Objective: Development of significant partnerships and their accomplishments.

Criteria: Describe the development of partnerships and their resulting accomplishments in project planning, implementation, training, monitoring, public education and participation, etc. Show the relationship of these accomplishments to specific projects or show a significant contribution to the overall WUI mitigation program.